

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 21-24 and 28-30 are pending in the present application.

Claims 2, 4, 21-24, 28-30 are currently amended.

Request for Interview

The Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview with the Examiner after the Examiner has had an opportunity to consider this Amendment, but before the issuance of the next Office Action. The Applicant may be reached at 617-951-3045.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

We have amended the claims to overcome the Examiner's antecedent basis rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 2, 4, 21-24 and 28-30 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,285,916 to Kadaba et al. (hereinafter "Kadaba").

Claim 2, representative in part of all of the rejected claims recites, as amended:

2. A mail piece tracking system including:
 - A. one or more servers that perform the operations of
 - i. **receiving mail piece delivery status information from mail piece delivery companies and linking mail piece delivery status information with respective user identifiers,**
 - ii. **receiving one or more messages from the senders and linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the one or more messages from the senders of the mail pieces,**
 - iii. producing listings of the delivery status information for the mail pieces directed to respective users that are associated with the user identifiers, and
 - iv. including links to the respective associated messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and

B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information and the links to the messages.

As the claims set forth, the current method and system receives mail piece delivery status information from respective mail piece delivery companies and, for example, messages from respective senders, and provides the information and the messages to the user by linking the status information received from the various companies with the user identifiers and linking the messages received from various senders with the status information. Thus a user need not individually track mail pieces, and/or track the mail pieces through various companies.

In contrast, Kadaba discloses a package tracking system that is employed by a mail delivery company to track a package *internally* after a parcel is received by the company. See, Abstract; Col. 2, lines 21-25. The package tracking system disclosed by Kadaba includes a data entry and processing device, such as a PDA, that is configured to associate and store data related to a particular parcel, including scanned symbol and signature information as well as keyed in information. See Col. 2, lines 34 – 44. The Kadaba system may track external delivery status information, but only of its own delivery operations – that is, the Kadaba system retrieves the company's history of the parcel provided to the system earlier from a PDA and provides the information through the PDA or another company computer, to which the information has been downloaded from the PDA. See, e.g., Col. 5, lines 12 et seq., Col 8, lines 7-16. There is thus no showing, teaching or suggestion in Kadaba of a method step of, or servers for, receiving delivery status information from various mail piece delivery companies and, for example, mes-

sages from various senders, and providing the delivery status information and messages to a user through links to a user identifier, as set forth in the pending independent claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

United States Patent 5,860,068 to Cook describes a system that, like the Kadaba system, tracks a product **internally**, though the Cook systems provides information relating to the status of the manufacture of the product to a user based on an assigned order number. The Cook system does this by associating an order number with the product and emailing the order number to the user. The user then uses the order number to follow the product through the various stages of manufacture via the company website. When the product ships, the manufacturer sends another email with an associated shipping tracking number, to allow the user to continue to follow the product.

The Cook system thus does not add to Kadaba the missing method steps or system components for performing the operations of receiving respective delivery status information, messages and so forth from various mail delivery companies and senders and linking the delivery status information and messages to a user identifier through which the user can obtain all of the information and messages. Rather Cook associates a tracking number with a package and provides the user with the tracking number, to allow the user to then track the individual package – much like is explained in the Background Information of the current application. See, application page 1, lines 14 et seq.

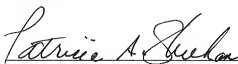
Accordingly, Cook in combination with Kadaba does not teach or suggest the current invention because, *inter alia*, the combination does not teach or suggest a method or

system that links, to a user identifier, mail piece delivery information received from respective mail piece delivery companies and, for example, messages from respective senders, as set forth in the independent claims, as amended, and the claims that depend therefrom.

The claims, as amended, should now be in form for allowance. We respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims, as amended, and issue a Notice of Allowance for the claims of the elected species and also for the claims of the non-elected species of Group I in light of the allowance of the claims that are determined to be generic claims.

Please charge any fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No.03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia A. Sheehan", is written over a horizontal line.

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